



Forest
Service

Lassen
National
Forest

Eagle Lake Ranger District
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File Code: 1950

Date: November 25, 2019

Route To:

Subject: Acer Project Scoping

To: Interested Public

The Eagle Lake Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest is conducting an environmental analysis for a vegetation management project that is considered important for the management of forests on National Forest System lands. We are seeking your comments on this proposal in order to understand public and resource concerns.

Location: The Acer Project is located 18 miles northwest of Susanville, CA. It includes Township (T) 33 North (N), Range (R) 9 East (E), Sections 25, 35, and 36; T33N, R10E, Sections 25, 30, 31, 35, 36; T32N, R9E, Sections 1, 2, 9 through 16, 21 through 27, and 34 through 36; T32N, R10E, Sections 2, 6 through 10, 15 through 22, 27 through 34; T31N, R9E, Section 1; and T31N, R10E, Sections 4 through 8 of the Mount Diablo Meridian.

Purpose and Need: The purpose and need for the Acer Project is to implement the Lassen National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1992) and Record of Decision (ROD, 1993) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) FEIS and ROD (2004) and the SNFP Management Indicator Species Amendment (2007) by taking an ecosystem-based approach to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Site-specific treatments that represent the gradient of forest structures from open montane meadows and shrub communities to forested uplands were selected to create landscape heterogeneity and a more disturbance-resilient landscape. The desired conditions for the Acer Project area include: 1) healthy forest conditions that are characterized by more open forested stands dominated by fire-resilient tree species, reduced surface fuel loads and ladder fuels where periodic low-intensity surface fires can be re-introduced and where wildfires can be safely fought, 2) forest areas with reduced tree densities that decrease risk of mortality from insects, drought, and disease, 3) functioning aspen, meadow and riparian systems which contribute to landscape biodiversity, 4) cost effective treatments that contribute to community stability, and 5) management of the transportation system.

Proposed Action: The Acer Project proposes vegetation management on approximately 6,500 acres of National Forest System lands. Proposed activities include a combination of mechanical thinning, hand thinning, hand piling, mastication, chipping, pile burning, and broadcast burning. In addition, the project proposal includes up to 30 miles of road reconstruction, road relocation, and road decommissioning.

A copy of the scoping notice is available through the Lassen National Forest website at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/lassen/landmanagement/projects>



Comments: We are currently seeking information and assistance from state and local governments, tribes, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed management activities. During the scoping process the public may raise issues or provide site-specific information relevant to the proposed action. The analysis team will consider all issues and information. Issues that the analysis shows to be significant will be resolved through project mitigation measures or through the development of alternatives that address those particular issues.

Comments may be submitted via email at: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-eagle-lake@usda.gov

Hard copy comments may be mailed to Carol Thornton, District Ranger, Eagle Lake Ranger District, 477-050 Eagle Lake Road, Susanville, CA 96130 or may be hand delivered to the district office weekdays (except holidays) between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm.

Timeline: While scoping comments may be accepted at any time, your comments will be most helpful if they are submitted by January 3, 2019. A decision on this project is expected in the summer of 2020.

For additional information regarding this project, please contact Andrew Orlemann at andrew.orlemann@usda.gov. Thank you for your interest in the management of the Lassen National Forest.



CAROL THORNTON
District Ranger